



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,828	06/25/2001	Norman Katz	441-26-001	1840
23935 7590 01/09/2007 KOPPEL, PATRICK & HEYBL 555 ST. CHARLES DRIVE SUITE 107 THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360			EXAMINER AKINTOLA, OLABODE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3691	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,828

Applicant(s)

KATZ, NORMAN

Examiner

Olabode Akintola

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/13/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of invention 1 (claims 1-7) in the reply filed on 10/18/2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 8-14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention II.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In lines 3-4 of claim 1, the statement "*said CPU programmed* for on-line electronic funds monitoring said central controller CPU acting..." is not clear. Also, in line 2 of claim 6, the word "has" should be "as". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosen (USPN 5455407) ("Rosen1").

Re claim 1: Rosen1 teaches an electronic funds transfer system comprising: a central controller CPU in electronic communication over the Internet with system users and participating banks, said CPU programmed for on-line electronic funds monitoring said central controller CPU acting as a conduit for handling of transaction between system users, means at each participating bank, in communication with the central controller CPU, for buyers and sellers of goods or services to establish electronic funds linked to demand deposit accounts in said participating banks, electronic representations of currency purchased by said buyers from demand deposit accounts in said participating banks are deposited in said buyer's electronic funds account, where said electronic representations of currency have an original monetary value tied to a selected actual currency (col. 1, lines 15-19; col. 3, lines 40-63; col. 4, lines 6-14), a transaction processor module associated with said central controller CPU for processing interactive letters of credit, establishing and releasing, encumbrances on electronic funds deposited in said electronics funds accounts as financial transactions are entered into and consummated, and acting on instructions to pay identified obligations to other participants in said electronic funds transfer system (col. 53, line 57 thru col. 54, line 1; col. 5, lines 31-39), a central controller storage module capable of storing information regarding all electronic on-line transactions between the buyers, sellers and the participating banks, and said central controller CPU being programmed to automatically balance electronic funds with their corresponding bank reserves through out the system on a selected periodic basis (col. 10, lines 47-49; col. 12, lines 10-39) and, on a selected periodic basis issue reports of the status of such transactions, wherein the buyer in each transaction has control

Art Unit: 3691

over the specification of electronic funds to be encumbered, the funds once encumbered are restricted from access by the buyer with the exception of release to the seller, unless released back to buyer by seller (col. 11, lines 7-10; col. 35, lines 50-61).

Re claim 2: Rosen1 teaches a new account module in communication with the central controller, said new account module accessible by users over the Internet, for qualifying new users and recording initial electronic representations of currency reserves deposited in support of electronic funds accounts at said participating bank (abstract; col. 3, lines 44-45).

Re claim 3: Rosen1 teaches voice or video communications capability between users and the central controller CPU (col. 8, lines 12-23; col. 10, lines 41-43).

Re claim 5: Rosen1 teaches encryption, de-encryption and re-encrypting capabilities for recording and storing transaction records in a secure data storage facility, data stored for each transaction being accessible only by the participants of the transaction and an authorized operator of the electronic funds transfer system (col. 8, lines 12-23; col. 3, lines 1-5).

Re claim 6: Rosen1 teaches that the buyer and seller communicate over the Internet using the central controller CPU has an intermediary, the central controller CPU serving only to provide information services, a data link between users, record financial transactions, funds

Art Unit: 3691

encumbrances and unencumbering thereof and to reconcile funds transfers on completion of a transaction to the satisfaction of the buyer and seller (abstract, Figures).

Re claim 7: Rosen1 teaches wherein electronic funds encumbered by a first buyer for the benefit of a first seller can be re-encumbered by said first seller for the benefit of one or more second sellers or funds providers to which said first seller owes a financial obligation, such that when the transaction between the first buyer and the first seller is completed and the encumbrance by the first buyer on first buyer funds is released, the released funds are automatically transferred, pursuant to instructions of first seller, to such one or more second sellers or funds providers, and prior sellers to said second sellers as so instructed by such participants electronically within the system (col. 5, lines 22-43; col. 8, lines 24-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen1 as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, in view of Rosen (USPN 5557518) ("Rosen2").

Re claim 4: Rosen1 does not explicitly teach electronic and person assisted dispute resolution and customer support services. Rosen2 teaches electronic and person assisted dispute resolution and customer support services (col. 2, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 41-43; col. 28, lines 39-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Rosen1 to include this step. One would have been motivated to do so in order to resolve disputes arising from the transaction between the buyer and seller.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rosen (USPN 5453601) teaches electronic monetary system.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular portions of the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially

Art Unit: 3691

teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olabode Akintola whose telephone number is 571-272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER